

William A. Navas, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Michael Montelongo, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Reginald Jude Brown, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

John J. Young, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Michael W. Wynne, of Florida, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

Dionel M. Aviles, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Jessie Hill Roberson, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Joseph J. Jen, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research Education, and Economics.

James R. Moseley, of Indiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the following nominations reported earlier today by the Energy Committee: Patricia Lynn Scarlett to be Assistant Secretary of Interior; William Gerry Myers III to be Solicitor of the Department of Interior; Bennett William Raley to be Assistant Secretary of Interior; Vicky A. Bailey to be Assistant Secretary of Energy; Frances P. Mainella to be Director of the National Park Service; John W. Keys III to be Commissioner of Reclamation; that the nominations be confirmed, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Patricia Lynn Scarlett, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

William Gerry Myers III, of Idaho, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Bennett William Raley, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Vicky A. Bailey, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs and Domestic Policy).

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Frances P. Mainella, of Florida, to be Director of the National Park Service.

John W. Keys, III, of Utah, to be Commissioner of Reclamation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from consideration of the following nominations:

Grover Whitehurst, to be Assistant Secretary of Educational Research and Improvement; Susan B. Neuman, to be the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education; Rebecca Campoverde, to be the Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs; Robert S. Martin, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services; that the Senate proceed to their consideration, en bloc; that they be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be laid on the table; that any statements on any nominations confirmed today appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD; that the

President be immediately notified of all the Senate's actions, and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Grover J. Whitehurst, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education.

Susan B. Neuman, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

Rebecca O. Campoverde, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

#### NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Robert S. Martin, of Texas, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### BEIJING'S BID FOR THE OLYMPICS

Mr. WELLSTONE. The International Olympic Committee is going to announce tomorrow which country will host the 2008 summer games. The competition is fierce. Toronto and Paris are serious contenders. Yet it seems likely that Beijing will get the prize.

I will speak briefly about this decision because I think there should be some discussion on the Senate floor and the implications. I believe China's authoritarian and oppressive government should not be granted the privilege of hosting the 2008 games. The current Government in Beijing does not deserve the international legitimacy and the spotlight that this honor bestows. Its chronic failure to respect human rights violates the fundamental spirit of the Games, and I think it should disqualify Beijing.

Many of my colleagues argue that human rights should never be a consideration in determining our trade relations with other countries. I don't agree. I do think a government's record on human rights should not be ignored with respect to choosing the site for the Olympics which confers enormous prestige on the host government and which is intended to celebrate human dignity and achievement.

I have a sense-of-the-Senate amendment because the feeling was it would be inappropriate to do it on an appropriations bill. I do not believe doing it

that way gets the support that it deserves. I know there are Senators who argue that to say the Olympics should not be in China is to politicize this question. If we are silent about this and Beijing hosts the Olympics, we are making a political statement. The political statement we are making is their violation of human rights does not matter.

Either way, it is a political statement. I prefer to speak out for human rights. The Olympics are first and foremost about sports and the joy of athletic competition, but human rights and dignity are also central to the Olympic ideal. The Olympic charter makes clear "respect for universal fundamental ethical principles" are central to the Olympic ideal.

Look at the State Department report. China's Government record has worsened as it committed "numerous serious abuses" from raiding home churches, imprisoning Tibetan monks and nuns, locking up Internet entrepreneurs, silencing democracy activists, and cracking down on Falun Gong."

The Chinese Government continues to hold a number of American scholars on suspicious charges of spying. Dr. Gao Zhan has not been allowed to contact her husband, her 5-year-old child, both American citizens, or her lawyer or the State Department.

This doesn't matter? Moreover, hundreds of thousands of people languish in jails and prison camps merely because they dared to practice their Christian or Buddhist or Islamic faith. These are the facts. Respected international human rights organizations have documented hundreds of thousands of cases of arbitrary imprisonment, torture, house arrest, or death at the hands of the Government. That is a fact.

What they have done, the brutal crackdown on the Falun Gong is unbelievable. This is a harmless Buddhist sect. According to international media reports, approximately 50,000 of these practitioners have been arrested and detained, more than 5,000 have been sentenced to labor camps without a trial, and hundreds have received prison sentences after sham trials, show trials. Detainees have often been tortured and scores of practitioners of this faith have died in Government custody. These are facts. This is the empirical evidence. Millions of others have been persecuted for so-called crimes such as, if you are ready, advocating for political pluralism and the ideals of democracy. Hundreds continue to languish in jail under a "counterrevolutionary" law which the Government repealed 3 years ago. Some of them are survivors of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

While China signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights—I remember the Clinton administration has made such a big deal of this—the Chinese Government has not